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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/649,483	08/27/2003	Maximilian Bergmann	TRW(AS)6718	5853

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EXAMINER

BROWN, DREW J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3616

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/649,483	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BERGMANN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Drew J. Brown	<b>Art Unit</b> 3616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/28/06 (RCE).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12 and 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-11 and 13-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                        | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/28/06 has been entered.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-7, 9-11 and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nanmu (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0180195 A1). Nanmu discloses a hybrid gas generator comprising a cylindrical outer housing (3) having a longitudinal axis, a pressure chamber filled with compressed gas (paragraph 34) and closed by a membrane (5), and a pyrotechnic charge (9) provided for opening the membrane. A sleeve (7) is connected with the peripheral wall of the container and forms a further section of the outer housing, and there is an insertion opening that is provided in the sleeve. The charge is accommodated in a bush-shaped charge housing (21), which is arranged outside the pressure chamber and has a longitudinal axis arranged substantially at right-angles to the longitudinal axis of the outer housing and extends into the housing. There is an axial outflow opening (19) provided in the outer housing at one axial end, characterized in that inside the outer housing a separate holding body (11) is arranged for retaining the charge housing in a longitudinal direction of the charge housing to avoid movement of the charge

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housing in the longitudinal direction of the charge housing. The charge housing also has at least one opening (27) that is directed to the membrane. The holding body is directly fastened and, with respect to the longitudinal axis of the charge housing, fastened in a form-fitting manner both to the charge housing and, additionally, to a part of the gas generator that is not destroyed (31) in an activated state of the gas generator to act against displacement of the holding body along the longitudinal axis of the outer housing away from the charge housing. The part being non-destructed in the activated state of the gas generator is also fastened to a container defining the pressure chamber. The holding body engages on the charge housing such that it has an effect against a movement thereof in a direction of at least one of the longitudinal axes. The holding body is also hollow and forms a channel (11a) between the charge housing and the membrane so that gas leaving the charge housing is directed to the membrane, and gas will flow through this channel when the gas generator is activated.

The pressure chamber has an end wall (17) facing the charge housing, where the holding body is provided inside the outer housing between the charge housing and the end wall. The pressure chamber is also defined by a bottle-shaped container with a peripheral wall that forms a section of the outer housing of the gas generator, where the container has an end face (left end of housing 3) that forms the end wall adjacent to which the holding body is arranged. The end wall has an opening (17a) closed by the membrane, where the membrane is fastened to a membrane holder (paragraph 35), which in turn is arranged on the end wall.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 12 and 18 are allowed.
5. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments filed 7/28/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.


On page 8 Applicant argues that Nanmu does not disclose a holding body being directly fastened and, with respect to the longitudinal axis of the charge housing, fastened in a form-fitting manner both to the charge housing and, additionally, to a part of the gas generator which is not destroyed in an activated state of the gas generator to act against displacement of the holding body along the longitudinal axis of the outer housing away from the charge housing. However, Nanmu does disclose a holding body (11) that is directly fastened and, with respect to the longitudinal axis of the charge housing, fastened in a form-fitting manner both to the charge housing (21) and, additionally, to a part of the gas generator that is not destroyed (31) in an activated state of the gas generator to act against displacement of the holding body along the longitudinal axis of the outer housing away from the charge housing (Figure 1).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Drew J. Brown whose telephone number is 571-272-1362. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul N. Dickson can be reached on 571-272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

 9/14/06  
**PAUL N. DICKSON**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**

Drew J. Brown  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3616